

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
Security Committee

SECOM-D-331
15 May 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
VIA: Deputy to the DCI for Support
FROM: Mr. Robert W. Gambino
Chairman
SUBJECT: Response to OC Management Advisory Group
Recommendation Regarding Uniform Clearance
Standards ☐

25X1 1. ☐ Action Requested: None. For your information only.

2. ☐ Background: During its 3 May 1978 meeting with you, the Office of Communication Management Advisory Group observed that we have no uniformity of clearance standards in the Intelligence Community, and recommended that you direct the new Intelligence Security Committee to establish uniform clearance standards for the Community and private industry.

25X1 3. ☐ Current Situation:

a. The observation that there are no uniform clearance standards throughout the Intelligence Community is not completely correct. The Community follows the prescriptions of the Director of Central Intelligence Directive 1/14 as the sole authority for granting access to sensitive compartmented intelligence.

b. The personnel security standards of the CIA served as a model for that DCID.

c. The observation that there are no uniform clearance standards in the Intelligence Community is not of new recognition, neither is it an issue gone unaddressed by the DCI and by the DCI Security Committee.

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d. The DCI has long held the view that our efforts should be directed toward developing a uniform program for suitability and security requirements related to Government employment--a single document that will form the basis for such programs throughout the Executive Branch. In supporting this view, the DCI offered assistance to the interagency organization attempting to formulate such a concept through revision of the current Executive Order 10450, titled "Suitability Requirements for Government Employment." This interagency organization was under the direction of the Domestic Council and was co-chaired by a representative of the Assistant Secretary of Defense and an official of the Civil Service Commission. The DCI was not invited to participate in preparation of a draft revision on uniform standards and was asked for coordination views only when it had been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget in August 1976 for formal coordination within the Executive Branch.

e. The Director, on advice of the CIA/Office of Security and the DCI Security Committee, responded that the Executive Order must establish clearly that the Director of Central Intelligence had statutory responsibility to protect intelligence sources and methods, and therefore required unambiguous recognition that the standards for granting access to intelligence materials revealing intelligence sources and methods are solely the responsibility of the Director of Central Intelligence.

f. The Director did not at that time address recommendations as to the scope of the recommended investigative standards, although the CIA considered the proposed standards to be unacceptable. Nonetheless, there were serious discussions by other representatives on the drafting group and counter-position became so strong that OMB referred the entire matter to the Civil Service Commission for the preparation of a new draft for OMB. The Civil Service Commission unilaterally redrafted the Executive Order. This draft version exempted CIA and the Intelligence Community from its provisions. Since that time OMB has delayed further action due to other priorities.

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g. In support of the DCI's position on desiring a single uniform standard, not only in the Intelligence Community but throughout the Government, the DCI Security Committee established a working group to propose standards for the Intelligence Community. This Investigative Standards Working Group has been unable to reach an agreement in this area. The basis for disagreement within the Intelligence Community reflects essentially the same disagreements of members of the Government study under the Civil Service Commission. The primary point of contention rests with the issue of scope of the background investigation. ☐

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h. The DCI Security Committee recognizes the possibility that the Intelligence Community may be exempt from the final draft Executive Order. It is working toward establishment of a uniform Community personnel security standard. There appear to be various options available to implement such a standard:

(1) The DCI could continue to strive for one uniform standard not only in the Intelligence Community but throughout Government and attempt to overturn any exemption offered in the new Executive Order.

(2) The DCI could request OMB to issue a separate Executive Order for the Intelligence Community capitalizing on established provisions for oversight--perhaps by the Intelligence Oversight Board or some other external group.

(3) The DCI could direct preparation of a written policy directive similar to the DCID now existing on uniform personnel security criteria for access to Special Compartmented Intelligence (SCI).

25X1 4. ☐ Summary: In summary, the Office of Communications Management Advisory Group has recommended uniform clearance standards for the Intelligence Community. The DCI's Security Committee has been actively engaged in striving for such uniform standards for over a year and will forward recommendation to you and the NFIB in due course.

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